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"How a Fine of $14.68 Will Go a Long Way"

About 50 years ago Louie Kornely came to the Deep Rock gas station in Mishicot. He said that he had saw a fox. So I got Sport, a fox hound. We put the dog on the track, he followed the track to a culvert. Louie got a piece of wire, and put a crank on the end and started turning. And soon he got somethng. Pulling it out, it was a big coon. Neither one of us had a permit to keep a coon. So we thought we would give it to Clarence White. He was president of Manitowoc Fish and Game, which I was Mishicot director. They wanted anything that anyone could bring to the park. We were going to take the coon to the park on Saturday. On Friday, Hugo Heller stoped at the station and wanted to buy the coon. I told him what we were going to do with it and that I had no right to sell it. On Saturday morning a game warden picked up the coon. I wasn't home, but when I returned home I called him. He told me to be at the Court House on the following Tuesday. The judge said that in my possesion I had a coon without a permit. I paid $10.00 in cost which amounted to $14.68 and I had my license revoked for one year.

Many of the hunters gave me a dollar or two, so the money part of it was paid in a hurry. Hugo Holst, Emil Spevachek and Walter Cretton went to see Geto Rohr, he was conservation commissioner. We told him the story. He told us I would get my license back. A couple weeks later a game warden called and told me that there was a change in the law and I got my license back. So I was very happy!

Because I got caught violating I was no longer a member of the club, and I had no meetings to go to. My next-door neighbor, Paul Kronforst, was in the station with me and we got talking about starting our own club. He went to the store and got 30-1¢ postcards. We mailed them to who we thought would be interested. We set the date on the postcard and it was held at Stieners Corners in my sisters tavern. It went over big! We had more than 30 members for the first meeting. My brother Alvin was elected president, but no one knew what to call the club. It took a couple meetings before we decided to call it the Mishicot Sportsmans Club. At that time there were no other clubs. We were the very first one.

Our club grew to 300 members. We held organized fox hunts, picnics, horsepulling contests. We even had a rodeo on the Karl Wiebensohn farm. We had money to spend so we bought 14 acres of land from Hugo Plockalmann for $100.00 an acre. The land we bought is where the Village Park is today. At that time it was a rough piece of ground with a creek running through it, with tree stumps and what was left of a brick factory.

We had wonderful helpers. The farmers came with their tractors in the evening and worked until dark. Ed Halla drove the town grader. He did a lot of leveling. Next, we made a ball diamond. We built a beer stand and sold beer and food during the ball games. We held picnics and put up lights, which are still there today. The cost of the lights was $3000.00 which we were able to pay for from the picnics and the beer stand. The ball fever grew fast in Mishicot, so we decided to build another diamond. Our parking got to be a problem, so we bought the parking area from the county.

As time went on the park got to be a burden to the Sportsmans Club, so we decided to sell it to the village which was incorporated at the time.

We spent all the money the club had. I cut the grass in the park for many years for nothing, but I was glad to do it because I was very proud of what we started.

The Sportsmans Club bought land at Jambo Creek which is still going good. They have a meeting room, a shelter, and a archery course.

Today the Mishicot Sportsmans Club consists of about 100 members and are associated with the Manitowoc County Fish and Game Protective Association. It provides the club with 175 pheasants which are released in places were the public can hunt. The club sponcers Hunters Safety course which is taught by certified Wisconsin Hunter Education instructors. Twice a year the club grounds have a 18 target archery course which is seated in the wooded area of the park. It has life size targets of deer, bear, coon and turkeys and two tree stands that make it realistic. The club also runs a tournament in late August which is a warm up for bow hunters come fall. There is league shooting in summer. The club also has various fund raisers throughout the year.

--Harvey J. Dvorak Sr.